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ABSTRACT

This paper presents statistics which show that states in the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) area lead the nation in teachers with National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification. North Carolina, Florida, and South Carolina lead the nation in total number of NBPTS certified teachers. In the 2001-02 school year, 71 percent of all NBPTS certificates were awarded to SREB teachers, and SREB states were among the top 10 in the number of NBPTS certified teachers produced annually. Between 2001-02, Florida had the largest increase nationwide in the number of certificates awarded. North Carolina has over 1,500 more NBPTS certified teachers than any other state in the nation. Most SREB states encourage teachers to attain NBPTS certification by offering them salary bonuses or funding for examination fees. However, most states are experiencing budget cuts, and funding available for bonuses could change. As of January 2003, there were nearly 24,000 teachers with NBPTS certification, and over 16,000 were in SREB states. Surveys of NBPTS certified teachers indicated that 92 percent believed the certification process made them better teachers. A chart presents 2000 data on teachers with NBPTS certification for professional teaching standards. (SM)

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Southern Regional Education Board
January 2003

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SREB States Continue to Lead the Nation in National Board Certified Teachers

SREB

- **North Carolina, Florida and South Carolina lead the nation in the total number of teachers with certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.** North Carolina has a total of 5,128 teachers nationally certified, followed by Florida with a total of 3,483. South Carolina's ranks third with 2,355 teachers having national board certification.

- **For the second year in a row, nearly three-fourths (71 percent) of all National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certificates were awarded to teachers from SREB states in 2001-2002.** Of the 7,893 certificates awarded this year, 5,586 were awarded to teachers in SREB states. More than one-third of all teachers in the United States are in the SREB states.

- **Once again, SREB states are among the top 10 states in the number of nationally certified teachers produced annually.** Seven SREB states were in the top 10 in terms of the number of nationally certified teachers in 2001-2002. Those states were North Carolina (1,478), Florida (1,242) and South Carolina (1,069) who ranked first, second and third respectively. Georgia (380), Mississippi (322), Oklahoma (242) ranked sixth, seventh and eighth respectively. Kentucky (204) ranked 10th nationally.

- Between 2001 and 2002, Florida had the largest increase nationwide in the number of certificates awarded: from 992 to 1,242. Four years ago only five teachers in Florida were nationally certified.

- North Carolina has over 1,500 more National Board certified teachers than any other state in the nation.

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State policies continue to make a difference

Most SREB states encourage teachers to attain National Board certification by offering them salary bonuses or funding for examination fees.

Legislative actions in 2002 in SREB states:

- Georgia legislation clarified that the 10 percent salary bonus for those teachers receiving certification will be recalculated annually. Previously, bonuses were calculated once upon initial certification. The legislature appropriated $2.4 million (up from $560,000) for bonuses.

- Alabama has increased by 77 percent support for teachers pursuing National Board certification. Funding is now more than $2.5 million.

- In Virginia, the budget included full funding in both years of the biennium for bonuses for teachers with National Board certification.

- South Carolina also increased the amount budgeted for bonuses for National Board certified teachers to $20.8 million.

Most state are experiencing budget cuts, and funding available for bonuses could change.

As of January 2003 , there were nearly 24,000 teachers with certification from the national board; more than 16,000 were in SREB states. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards sets high standards for what teachers should know and be able to do. Teachers who hold such certification are recognized as professional experts in their fields. Recent research from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards surveyed participants from select states, including four SREB states. Ninety-two percent of those surveyed believed the process made them better teachers. Further research on National Board teachers is currently underway in such SREB states as Florida, North Carolina and Georgia.

Teachers With Certification From the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, 2002

	2001-2002 Certificates Issued	Total Certificates Issued as of Jan. 15, 2003	State Incentives for Teachers With National Board Certification*
United States[1]	7,893	23,937	
SREB states	5,586	16,007	
Alabama	139	449	One-time $5,000 bonus for use in the classroom; $5,000 annually for the life of the certificate
Arkansas	61	121	Annual bonus of $2,000 for the life of the certificate
Delaware	53	159	Annual bonus of 12 percent of the state portion of salary for the life of the certificate
Florida	1,242	3,483	Annual bonus of 10 percent of the prior year's average statewide salary for teachers for the life of the certificate
Georgia	380	802	10 percent of the state portion of salary annually for the life of the certificate (recalculated annually upon certification)
Kentucky	204	348	$2,000 annually for the life of the certificate
Louisiana	84	1,069	$5,000 annually for the life of the certificate
Maryland	79	217	State will match up to $2,000 the one-time or annual bonuses provided by local boards
Mississippi	322	1,474	$6,000 annually for the life of the certificate
North Carolina	1,478	5,128	12 percent of the state portion of salary annually for the life of the certificate (calculated annually)
Oklahoma	242	635	$5,000 annually for the life of the certificate
South Carolina	1,069	2,355	$7,500 annually for the life of the certificate
Tennessee	17	60	No monetary bonus provided by the state
Texas	42	99	No monetary bonus provided by the state
Virginia	142	420	$5,000 the first year; $2,500 annually for the remainder of the certificate
West Virginia	32	88	$2,500 annually for the life of the certificate

[1] Includes "others" (teachers who did not provide city or state information), teachers with multiple certificates and those who are deceased.

* Bonuses and incentives in some state may be affected by the changing economy this year.

Sources: National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; SREB state departments of education

Compiled by SREB staff December 2002

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